

Amendments to the Claims

1. (Previously Presented) A method for treating depression in a subject comprising administering to the subject a therapeutically effective amount of a N-type calcium channel inhibitor.

2. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the N-type calcium channel is an alpha 1B N-type calcium channel.

3. (Canceled)

4. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the N-type calcium channel inhibitor is an antibody specific for the N-type calcium channel.

5. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 1, wherein the N-type calcium channel inhibitor is a transcription inhibitor of a gene encoding the N-type calcium channel.

6. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 1, wherein the N-type calcium channel inhibitor is a translation inhibitor of a transcribed RNA of a N-type calcium channel gene.

7. (Withdrawn) An anti-depression agent containing a N-type calcium channel inhibitor as an effective ingredient.

8. (Withdrawn) The anti-depression agent as set forth in claim 7, wherein the anti-depression agent contains an N-type calcium channel alpha 1B inhibitor as an effective ingredient.

9. (Withdrawn) The anti-depression agent as set forth in claim 7, wherein the N-type calcium channel inhibitor is a compound acting specifically upon an N-type calcium channel to inhibit its activity, an antibody combining specifically with the N-type calcium channel, a

substance inhibiting transcription of a gene encoding the N-type calcium channel, or a substance inhibiting translation of a transcribed N-type calcium channel gene.

10. (canceled)

11. (Withdrawn) A screening method for an anti-depression agent, comprising:
obtaining a transformant by transfecting host cells with a vector containing an alpha 1B structural gene and a reporter gene;
culturing the transformant with a test sample for screening; and
measuring the expression of the reporter gene, wherein decreased expression of the reporter gene indicates that expression of the alpha 1B structural gene is decreased and that the test sample is an anti-depression agent.